

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 11988

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TAGS: MILI VE

SUBJ: REPORT ON NEW COMMUNIST STRATEGY TOWARDS LATIN AMERICAN
ARMED FORCES

1. ACCORDING TO REPORT IN NOV 18 ENGLISH- LANGUAGE DAILY
HOURNAL, A RECENT ISSUE OF ESTE ET OESTE, A POLITICAL JOURNAL
EDITED IN PARIS, ALLEGED THAT THE JUNE CONFERENCE OF COMMUNIST
PARTIES IN HAVANA
DECIDED THAT THE REGULAR LATIN AMERICAN ARMED FORCES WOULD BE
THE PRINCIPAL TARGET FOR COMMUNIST PENETRATION. ACCORDING TO THE
ESTE ET OESTE ARTICLE, THE LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNIST PARTIES,
INCLUDING THE CUBAN, WILL NOW SUPPORT THE NATIONALISTIC TEN-
DENCIES OF THE REGULAR ARMED FORCES IN LATIN AMERICA
INSTEAD OF TRYING TO FORM SEPARATE REVOLUTIONARY ARMIES.
ARTICLE QUOTES VENEZUELAN SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (MAS) DEPUTY
GERMAN LAIRET AS SAYING IN BOGOTA THAT THE VENEZUELAN
MILITARY, WHICH HAD LOST ITS SYMPATHY FOR THE LEFT DURING THE TIME
OF GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN VENEZUELA, IS NOW EVOLVING TOWARDS A
STRONG NATIONALISM WHICH SHOULD MAKE THE ARMY MORE OPEN
TO SOCIALIST IDEAS.

2. COMMENT: EVER SINCE FORMER PRESIDENT BETANCOURT'S WARNING
LAST JULY THAT MAS WAS ATTEMPTING TO PENETRATE THE VENEZUELAN
ARMED FORCES (CARACAS 7530), THERE HAVE BEEN RECURRING RUMORS
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OF SUCH ACTIVITY. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S ASSESSMENT OF

WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN SOVIET-CUBAN STRATEGY,
GROWING OUT OF THE HAVANA CONFERENCE, TOWARDS PENETRATING
LATIN AMERICAN ARMED FORCES.
SHLAUDEMAM

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